

[3 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

1	2	3
2000-2001	One case of wild bore poaching and one of Ghoral poaching caught and 2 other cases of attempt to poaching caught.	Rs. 2100/- realized as compensation from offenders.

Protection of tigers

1422. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Project Tiger has succeeded in protecting and increasing the number of tigers in India;

(b) what is the present number of living tigers in India, as compared to that in 1973;

(c) how many tigers have died or were killed during the last two years and the causes of their death;

(d) how many poachers have been arrested and brought to book for killing tigers; and

(e) what steps are being taken to protect the tigers and facilitate their further breeding?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) As against 1827 tigers in 1972, India now has about 3800 tigers.

(c) the number of deaths of tigers during last two years is as follows:

	1999	2000
Natural death	16	15
Death due to poaching	38	39
TOTAL:	54	54

(d) Action against the poachers is invariably taken by the State

Governments. As such the list of pachers is not compiled and collated by the Government of India. However the list of important cases and poachers arrested is given in Statement I. (See below)

(e) The details are given in Statement II.

Statement-I

Details of offenders arrested and action taken

- (i) On 18.12.99, 3 tigers skins, 50 leopard skins and 5 otter skins were seized at Sahibabad, Uttar Pradesh border. 8 nos. of offenders were arrested. The investigation has been completed and the complaints has been filed in the court.
- (ii) On 12.1.2000, 4 nos. of tigers skins, 70 nos. of leopard skins, 18000 nos. of leopard claws, 132 nos. of tiger claws and 221 nos. of black buck skins were seized at Khagā. 6 nos. of offenders were arrested. The investigation has been completed and the complaint has been filed in the court.
- (iii) On 15.1.2001, the Special Task Force, Uttar Pradesh arrested 2 persons for possessing 1 tiger and 1 leopard skin at Atariya Railway Station, Sitapur. Investigation is in progress.
- (iv) On 6.2.2001, one tiger carcass was found in Nallamala forests in Andhra Pradesh. 5 offenders were arrested. Investigation is under progress.
- (v) On 25.2.2001, the Special Task Force, Uttar Pradesh arrested 4 persons for illegal possession of 1 tiger skin, 41 kgs. of bones including 7 tiger skulls at Kheri (Palia). Investigation is in progress.
- (vi) On 21.3.2001, 1 tiger skin, 5 tiger skulls, 1.9 kgs. antler horns, 10 nos. of tiger claws, 23 kgs. of tiger bones, 3 nos. of tiger teeth and 4 nos. of leopard skins were seized by Central Bureau of Investigation in Nagpur. 6 nos. of offenders were arrested. The investigation is in progress.
- (vii) On 7.4.2001, the Special Task Force, Uttar Pradesh arrested 3 persons for illegal possession of 1 tiger skin and 1 leopard skin at Palia, Kheri. Investigation is in progress.

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- (viii) On 27.4.2001, the Special Task Force, Uttar Pradesh arrested 5 persons for possessing 1 tiger and 19 leopard skin at Kanpur and 5 leopard skin and 10 claws in Lucknow. Investigation is in progress.
- (ix) On 14.5.2001, the Special Task Force, Uttar Pradesh arrested 2 persons for possessing 2 suspected tiger skin at Allahabad. Investigation is in progress.

Statement-II

Steps taken by the Government of India for the protection of tigers
NATIONAL LEVEL

1. Setting up of a National Co-ordination Committee to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife with enforcement agencies like Customs, Revenue Intelligence, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Border Security Force, Central Reserves Police, Coast Guards, State Police, Deputy Director, Wildlife Preservation and Scientific Organisation like Zoological and Botanical Survey of India.
2. Training Programmes and Workshops have been organised to sensitize the above departments to be proactive in control of trade and smuggling of wildlife products.
3. A special co-ordination committee with Secretary (E&F), Special Secretary (Home), Director, CBI and representative of the Chairman, Central Board of Excise and Customs has been created to ensure better co-ordination in the efforts to curb smuggling of wildlife products.
4. Central assistance is being provided to State Governments to strengthen the protection infrastructure including armed squads, vehicles, communication network and co-ordination between the Park Managers.
5. Schemes for awards and rewards for outstanding performance and acts of valor has been introduced to encourage detection and reporting.
6. The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.
7. Launching of public awareness programme to involve Non-

Governmental Organisations and others for supporting the Government in its efforts towards wildlife conservation.

8. Supporting programmes of Institutions and NGOs in exploring tiger-trade routes and developing a forensic identification reference Manual for tiger parts and products.
9. Funds are being provided to the State Governments for eco-development of the areas to reduce the biotic pressure thereon.
10. Site specific special force in Project Tiger Areas.
11. Special Strike Force all over the country to control trade.
12. Creation of wildlife trade control bureau.

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

1. Initiated creation of a Forum of Tiger Range Countries, i.e. Global Forum for addressing international issues related of tiger conservation.
2. To control transboundary trade and effect mutual cooperation in tiger conservation:—
 - (i) A protocol has been signed with People's Republic of China.
 - (ii) An MOU with his Majesty's Government of Nepal has been signed.
 - (iii) Dialogue with Bangladesh has been initiated.
3. Several resolutions at CITES to check illegal trade in Tiger parts and products have been adopted at India's initiative.
4. The Millennium Tiger Conference was held in March, 1999. The conference declaration suggested several action for conservation of tiger both at national and international level.